

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

JUNE - SEPTEMBER OUTLOOK

Issued June 1, 2016

SUMMARY FOR NORTH OPS FOR JUN-SEP 2016

The majority of the North Ops region received above normal precipitation and the long-term drought has eased across the region. **Valleys and foothills** have an above normal fine fuel crop that is currently in the curing phase. A live/green component in these areas will slow fire spread somewhat, but active Initial Attack conditions are expected until **late July or August when Significant Fire Potential will increase to Above Normal**. At mid and upper elevations fuels and soils are more moist than at this time in recent years and this indicates that active fire season conditions will come later than in the past 4 years **above 4000 ft**. Significant Fire Potential is expected to continue at **Normal levels throughout the June-September** timeframe due to less severe drought conditions.

OUTLOOK MAPS AND HIGHLIGHTS FOR JUN-SEP 2016



June Highlights for North Ops:

El Niño ending

Drought conditions have eased

Temperatures: 1-3° above normal

Precipitation: 70-110% of normal

Normal Large Fire Potential

OUTLOOK MAPS AND HIGHLIGHTS FOR JUN-SEP 2016 (CONT'D)



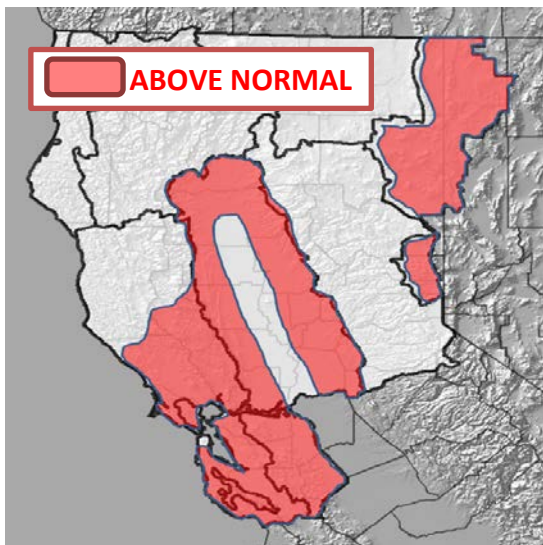
July Highlights for North Ops:

ENSO Neutral conditions

Temperatures: 1-3° above normal

Precipitation: Near Normal (Little to none)

**Trending to Above Normal Large Fire Potential
East Side Valleys and Foothills. Normal
Elsewhere**



Aug - Sep Highlights for North Ops:

La Niña developing

Temperatures: 1-3° above normal

Precipitation: Little to none

**Above Normal Large Fire Potential East Side
Valleys and Foothills, Sacramento Valley and
Foothills, Fine-Fuel-Dominated Areas of Mid**

WEATHER DISCUSSION FOR NORTH OPS

Precipitation was well above normal in May from the Cascade-Sierra ranges eastward (**Fig 1**). To the west, most locations received near or below normal precipitation. Around 80% of the North Ops region has received normal or above normal precipitation since the rain year began on October 1, 2015 (**Fig 2**). Precipitation is expected to be near normal - which is little to no rainfall - during the June through September Outlook period (**Fig 3**). El Niño has faded and near normal sea surface temperatures are expected in the equatorial Pacific during June through much of August, followed by increasing chances of La Niña developing in late summer or fall (**Fig 4**). Above normal temperatures are expected to continue throughout the summer (**Fig 5**). Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) off the U.S. West Coast and Baja California have cooled down to near normal in recent weeks (**Fig 6**). In 2015 SSTs in these areas were well above normal and contributed to a very active tropical storm season, as well as subtropical monsoon surges into the North Ops region, leading to above normal lightning amounts in the North Ops region during the summer. Normal or even cooler than normal SSTs would indicate that less lightning can be expected this fire season compared to the 2015 fire season.

Fig 1 North Ops May % of Normal PCPN

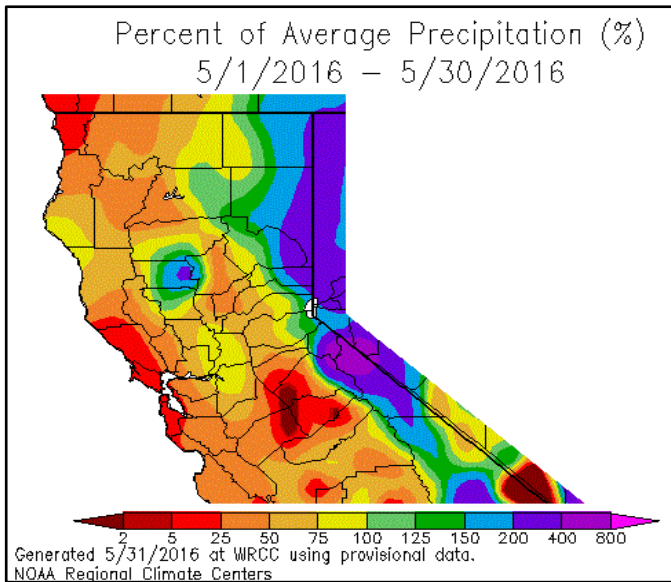


Fig 2 North Ops Rainy Season % of Normal PCPN

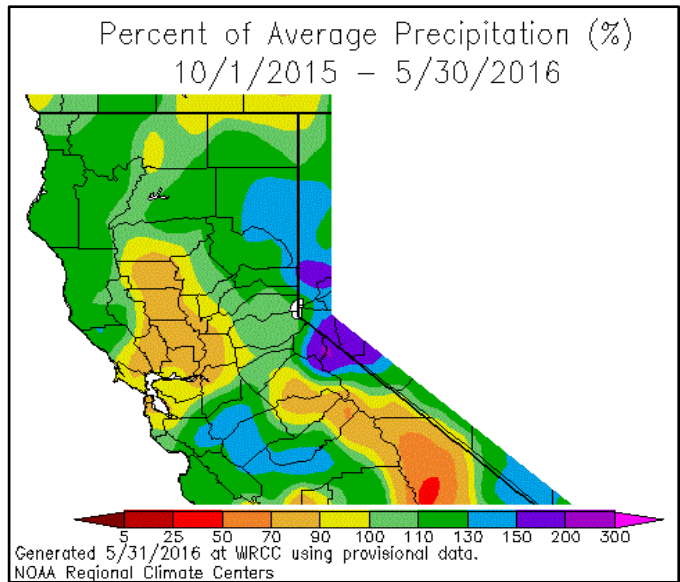


Fig 3 July-Aug-Sept Expected PCPN

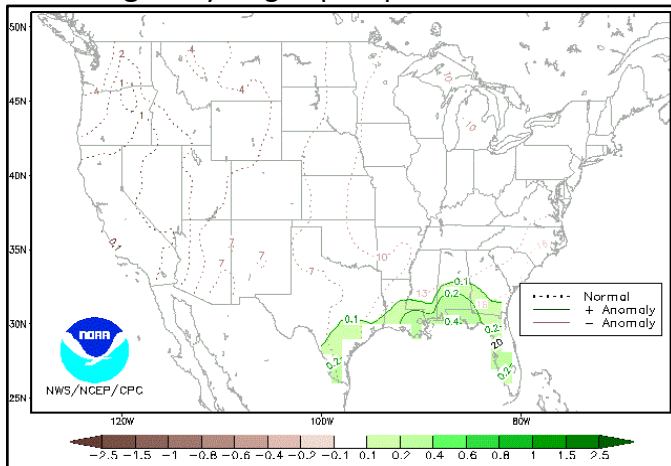


Fig 4 May ENSO Forecast Plume Diagram

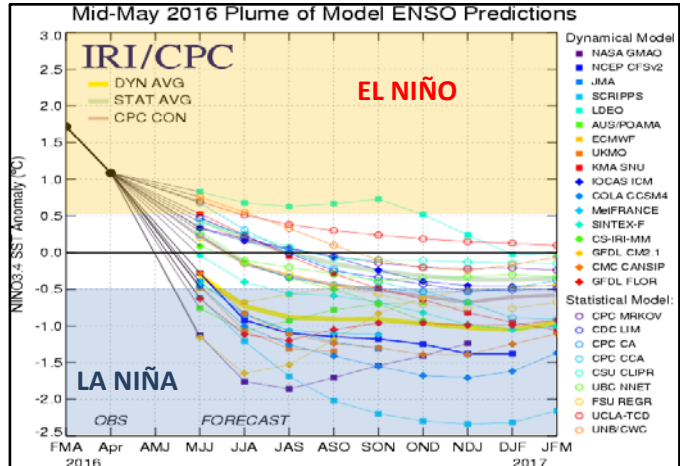


Fig 5 July-Aug-Sept Expected Temps

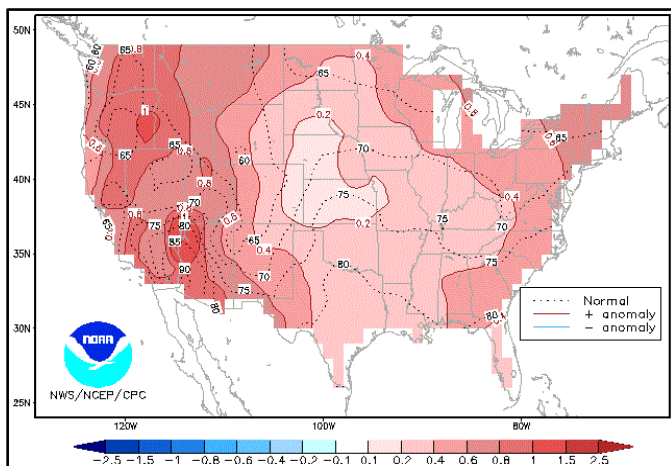
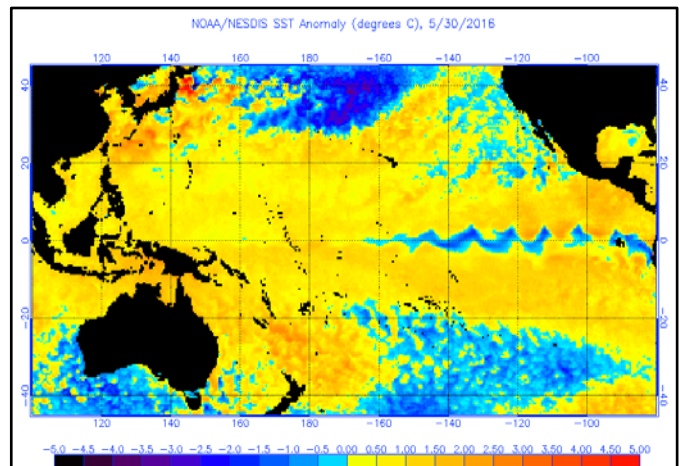


Fig 6 May 30, 2016 Sea Surface Temps



Fuels and Fire Potential Discussion for North Ops

There is an above normal crop of annual grasses and other perennial vegetation at lower elevations, and in the valleys and foothills east of the Cascade-Sierra crest. These fine fuels have cured in many locations, especially at the south end of the region. Soils are still a bit moist in some areas of the region due to wet unsettled weather in May. Additional rounds of fine fuel growth are expected and will need to cure before these areas see significant fire potential increase to critical levels. These areas are expected to have Above Normal fire potential outside of the agricultural areas in August and September. The fine fuel crop in valleys and foothills east of the Cascade-Sierra crest will likely cure out during July. Significant fire potential will begin to move to Above Normal there by late July, and remain above normal in August and September. Fuel moisture of heavier fuels (**Fig 7**), especially at mid and upper elevations, is near normal for this time of year. West of the crest, green-up is underway at mid elevations (2500-5500 ft). Snow cover above 5500 ft is decreasing rapidly now (**Fig 9**). These higher elevation locations are entering green-up as they become snow-free. Due to the easing of longer-term drought conditions (**Fig 8**), mid and upper elevations are expected to have Normal Significant Fire Potential through September. Although, small pockets of Tree Mortality (**Fig 10**) may see more active fire behavior if ignitions occur. Typically, these areas see 1-2 large fires in June, 2-4 large fires in July, 2-6 large fires in August, and 1-3 large fires in Sept.

Fig 7 NOPS 1000-hr FM

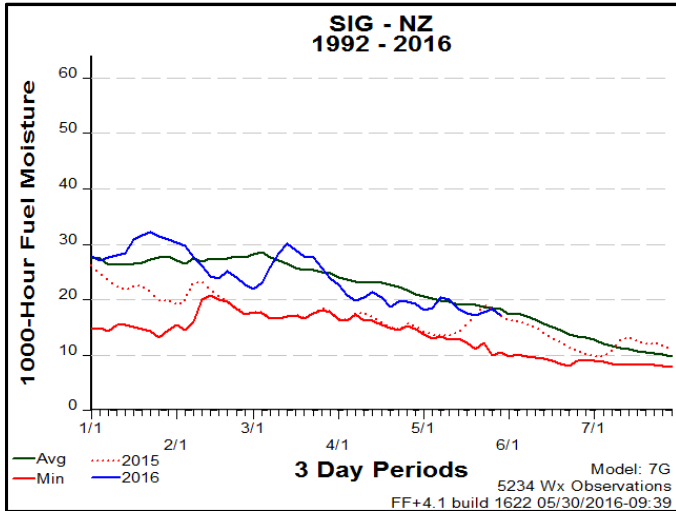


Fig 8 Drought Monitor for California

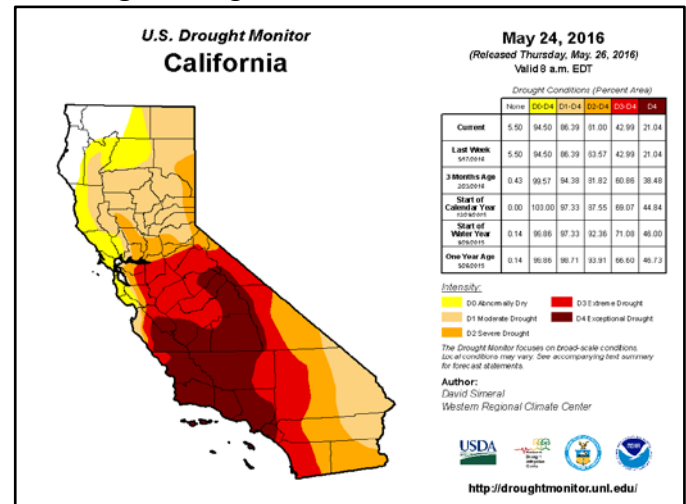


Fig 9 Snowpack June 1, 2016

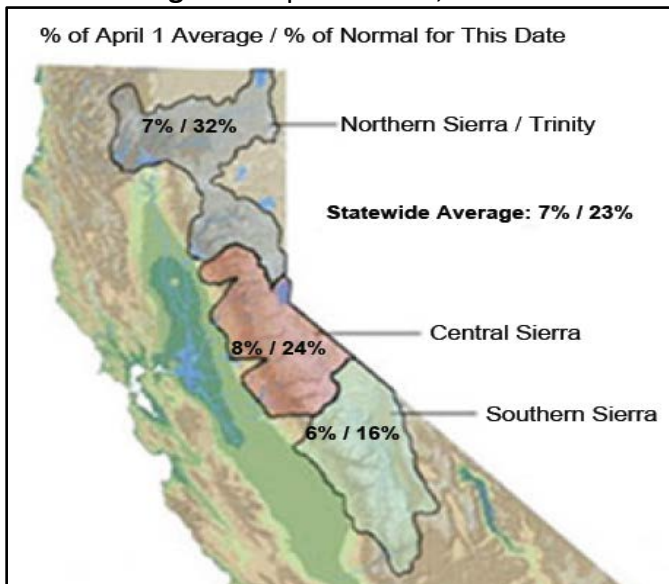


Fig 10 Areas of Tree Mortality

